
FTEALMUN'25

H:UNSC
STUDY GUIDE

UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. Letter from the Co-Secretaries-General**
- 2. Letter from the Under Secretary-General**
- 3. Letter from the Academic Assistant**
- 4. Introduction to the Committee**
- 5. Historical Background**
- 6. Major Actors**
- 7. Timeline of Events**
- 8. Key Issues for Debate**
- 9. Bloc Positions**
- 10. Guidelines for Delegates**
- 11. Bibliography**

1.) Letter from the Co-Secretaries-General

Distinguished Delegates of FTEALMUN'25,

It is a great honour to welcome you all to FTEALMUN'25. In an age when global challenges affect each of us more profoundly than ever before, this conference represents far more than a gathering of students. It is a space where young voices can question, connect, and take the first steps toward shaping lasting change. The committees and agendas have been crafted with care, each one designed to spark meaningful dialogue, challenge existing perspectives, and inspire innovative solutions to the world's most pressing issues.

The true strength of FTEALMUN'25 lies in its diversity. Bringing together delegates from different backgrounds and viewpoints, this conference is a reminder that progress stems from the exchange of ideas. It is not only about policies or resolutions but about learning from one another, testing convictions, and building a community where every vision is valued. As you take on the role of diplomats, I encourage you to keep your minds open, to lead with patience and empathy, and to embrace the discomfort that often comes with meaningful negotiation.

I hope this experience empowers you to bring your full self into every discussion. Let it be a stepping stone in your journey to becoming thoughtful, forward-looking leaders. Each of you carries a unique perspective, and together you will define the spirit and success of this conference. My team and I are excited to see the passion, creativity, and determination you bring to the table.

On behalf of the entire Secretariat, thank you for joining us in this endeavour. May FTEALMUN'25 not only be remembered for its debates but also for the friendships formed, the lessons learned, and the inspiration that stays with us long after the final session concludes.

Warm regards,
Haktan Efe Özgür, Ela Çakır
Co-Secretaries-General of FTEALMUN'25

2.) Letter from the Under Secretary-General

Dear Delegates,

It is my absolute pleasure to welcome you to the Historical United Nations Security Council at FTEALMUN'25. As your Under Secretary-General, I am very excited to guide you through the debates and discussions of our agenda, the Yugoslav Wars.

What makes this committee so special is the unique opportunity it gives you: the events you will be dealing with have already happened, but in this room, history is not fixed. You have the chance to shape it yourself — to rewrite decisions, to prevent conflicts, or even to change the outcome entirely. The direction this committee takes depends on you and the choices you make.

The Yugoslav Wars are a complex and tragic chapter in modern history, raising questions about sovereignty, humanitarian intervention, peacekeeping, and the role of the UN. By stepping into the shoes of global leaders, you will face the same dilemmas and pressures they once faced. But unlike them, you can choose a different path.

Our goal is to create an atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable sharing ideas and trying new strategies. Remember, the most memorable MUN experiences come from the unexpected — alliances you didn't see coming, compromises you didn't plan for, and outcomes no one predicted.

I look forward to seeing your creativity, diplomacy, and leadership in action. Together, let's make this committee not just a simulation, but an experience you'll carry with you long after the conference ends.

Warm regards,

Selin Aygün

Under-Secretary-General of the Historical United Nations Security Council Committee

3.) Letter from the Academic Assistant

Dear delegates,

I am Alya Begüm Kanık, your academic assistant for the HUNSC committee. I study as a sophomore at Florya Tevfik Ercan Anatolian High School. I would like to express that I am very happy to welcome you all to this conference as my delegates. I can assure you that all of the academic team and the secretariat worked so hard to give you the best experience in this conference.

I would like to thank my Under Secretary General, Selin Aygün for this committee. I love her so much and I believe that she will give you a wonderful experience. I also want to thank our Co-Secretaries Generals Haktan Efe Özgür and Ela Çakır for this conference. They are my seniors and I have gained much experience with their help. I am very grateful to them for giving me the opportunity to be on the Academy Team at this conference.

Lastly, I am very excited to meet you all at FTEALMUN. I believe that we will have 3 amazing days in our committee.

Furthermore, if you have any questions you can contact me anytime via,
alyabegumkanik@gmail.com

Warm regards,
Alya Begüm Kanık
Academic Assistant of the Historical United Nations Security Council Committee

4.) Introduction to the Committee

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is the principal organ of the United Nations entrusted with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Established in 1945, it is the only UN body with the legal authority to adopt binding resolutions under the UN Charter. The Council is composed of fifteen members: five permanent members — the People's Republic of China, the French Republic, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America — each holding the right of veto; and ten non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms. This structure ensures both continuity and representation, while also reflecting the geopolitical balance of power within the international system.

The functions of the Security Council include investigating disputes, imposing sanctions, authorising peacekeeping missions, and, when deemed necessary, approving collective military action. Over the decades, the Council has played a central role in addressing some of the most pressing conflicts in international relations, often serving as the main forum for negotiation, diplomacy, and collective action.

The agenda of the Historical United Nations Security Council at FTEALMUN'25 is the Yugoslav Wars. Following the dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s, a series of armed conflicts broke out in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and later Kosovo. Ethnic violence, mass atrocities, large-scale displacement of populations, and grave violations of international humanitarian law characterised these conflicts. The wars represented one of the most significant security crises in post-Cold War Europe, threatening regional stability and testing the effectiveness of the international community.

Throughout the 1990s, the Security Council was at the forefront of the international response. It was responsible for imposing arms embargoes and economic sanctions, authorising peacekeeping missions such as the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), and later endorsing NATO operations in the region. The Council also oversaw the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), which set important precedents for international justice and accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

By focusing on this agenda, delegates will engage directly with the dilemmas the Council faced during the Yugoslav Wars: balancing the principle of state sovereignty with the responsibility to protect civilians, determining the limits of peacekeeping in active conflicts, and assessing the legitimacy of military intervention without unanimous agreement among the permanent members. This simulation allows

participants to critically analyze the decisions taken by the UNSC, while also considering alternative courses of action that could have altered the trajectory of the conflict.

5.) Historical Background

The Yugoslav Wars were a series of violent conflicts that followed the disintegration of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) during the 1990s. Rooted in deep ethnic, religious, and political divisions, these wars reshaped the Balkans and posed one of the greatest challenges to the United Nations and the broader international community in the post-Cold War era.

The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Tito's Legacy

The SFRY was established after the Second World War under the leadership of Josip Broz Tito, who ruled from 1945 until his death in 1980. A charismatic partisan leader, Tito successfully maintained unity in a multi-ethnic federation composed of six republics — Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, and Macedonia — and two autonomous provinces within Serbia: Kosovo and Vojvodina.

Tito's ideology of "Brotherhood and Unity" sought to suppress ethnic nationalism through a combination of authoritarian control, a decentralized federal system, and a non-aligned foreign policy that placed Yugoslavia outside both NATO and the Warsaw Pact. His balancing act kept Yugoslavia stable for decades, but his death removed the central figure holding the federation together.

Rising Nationalism and Economic Decline

The 1980s marked a turning point. The Yugoslav economy entered a period of decline, with rising unemployment, foreign debt, and inflation undermining the legitimacy of the federal government. At the same time, nationalist leaders emerged in the republics, exploiting ethnic grievances and weakening central authority.

One of the most influential figures was Slobodan Milošević, who rose to power in Serbia by 1987. Promoting Serbian nationalism, Milošević curtailed the autonomy of Kosovo and Vojvodina, alarming other republics. His policies fueled tensions with Franjo Tuđman, the nationalist leader of Croatia, and later with Alija Izetbegović, the Muslim leader of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Breakup of Yugoslavia

By the early 1990s, the centrifugal forces within Yugoslavia became irreversible. In June 1991, Slovenia and Croatia declared independence. The Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), still dominated by Serbian leadership, attempted to prevent Slovenia's secession but faced strong resistance in what became known as the Ten-Day War, ending quickly with Slovenia's effective independence.

Croatia's war of independence proved longer and bloodier. Serbian paramilitaries, supported by the JNA, fought against Croatian forces, leading to widespread destruction and ethnic cleansing. Tuđman's

government pushed for international recognition, while Milošević insisted on protecting Serb populations in Croatia.

In 1992, Bosnia and Herzegovina declared independence following a referendum boycotted by Bosnian Serbs. This triggered one of the most brutal conflicts of the decade: the Bosnian War. Led by Radovan Karadžić (political leader) and Ratko Mladić (military commander), Bosnian Serb forces — backed by Serbia — launched campaigns of ethnic cleansing against Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims) and Croats. The Siege of Sarajevo (1992–1996) and the Srebrenica massacre (1995), where more than 8,000 Bosniak men and boys were executed, became enduring symbols of the conflict's brutality.

The Role of Ideology and Ethnicity

Ideology in the Yugoslav Wars was deeply intertwined with ethnic identity. Serbian nationalism under Milošević emphasized the protection of Serb minorities outside Serbia's borders, invoking historical memories of the Battle of Kosovo (1389) and Serbian suffering under the Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires.

Croatian nationalism under Tuđman celebrated independence and statehood, often clashing with Serb minorities within Croatia. Bosniak leaders, such as Izetbegović, advocated for a multi-ethnic Bosnia but faced both Serb and Croat nationalist opposition.

The wars were not only about territory but also about identity and historical memory, with each side mobilizing populations through narratives of past victimhood and promises of national revival.

International Involvement

The disintegration of Yugoslavia immediately drew the attention of the international community. The European Community (later European Union) initially attempted to mediate but was divided and slow to respond. The United Nations Security Council imposed arms embargoes, economic sanctions, and deployed peacekeepers under UNPROFOR (United Nations Protection Force). However, the limited mandate of UN forces often left them unable to prevent atrocities.

The conflict also raised the question of military intervention. NATO became increasingly involved, first through air patrols and later through direct strikes. The climax came in 1995, after the massacre at Srebrenica and the continued siege of Sarajevo, when NATO launched Operation Deliberate Force, compelling Bosnian Serbs to negotiate. The Dayton Accords, brokered by U.S. diplomat Richard Holbrooke and signed in December 1995 by Milošević, Tuđman, and Izetbegović, brought an end to the Bosnian War.

The Kosovo Conflict

Even after Bosnia, instability remained. In 1998–1999, Kosovo became the focal point of conflict. The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), composed largely of ethnic Albanians, fought for independence from Serbia. The Serbian military responded with a campaign of repression and mass displacement. This led to

NATO's Operation Allied Force in March 1999 — a bombing campaign against Serbia carried out without explicit UNSC authorization, highlighting divisions within the Council, particularly between Western powers and Russia.

The conflict ended with the withdrawal of Serbian forces from Kosovo and the establishment of the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), but the status of Kosovo remains contested to this day.

Aftermath and Legacy

The Yugoslav Wars left more than 130,000 people dead, millions displaced, and entire communities devastated. The wars also marked a turning point for international law and humanitarian intervention. The creation of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in 1993 was unprecedented, holding leaders such as Karadžić, Mladić, and Milošević accountable for war crimes.

Politically, the wars demonstrated both the potential and the limitations of the UNSC. While the Council took important actions through peacekeeping and sanctions, divisions among permanent members often delayed decisive action. NATO's unilateral intervention in Kosovo raised further questions about the legitimacy of military action without Security Council approval, a debate that continues in international relations today.

6.) Major Actors

1. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

Key Leaders:

- **Slobodan Milošević** – President of Serbia (1989–1997), later President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Central figure in promoting Serbian nationalism and protecting Serb minorities across former Yugoslav republics.
- **Vojislav Šešelj** – Radical nationalist leader, influential in paramilitary mobilization.

Role:

Serbia and Montenegro sought to preserve influence over the collapsing federation. Backed Serb forces in Croatia and Bosnia, supported the Bosnian Serb leadership, and directly engaged in Kosovo. Ideologically driven by the concept of a “Greater Serbia,” which aimed to unite Serbs across the region.

2. Croatia

Key Leader:

- **Franjo Tuđman** – President of Croatia (1990–1999). Advocated for Croatian independence and pursued a nationalist agenda.

Role:

Declared independence in 1991, leading to war with Serb forces. In Bosnia, Croatia at times allied with Bosniaks against Serbs but also pursued territorial ambitions in Herzegovina, causing conflict with Bosnian Croats and Muslims.

3. Bosnia and Herzegovina**Key Leader:**

- **Alija Izetbegović** – President of Bosnia and Herzegovina (1990–1996). Advocated for a multi-ethnic Bosnian state but faced opposition from both Serb and Croat nationalist factions.

Role:

Declared independence in 1992, sparking the Bosnian War. Bosnian Muslims (Bosniaks) were subjected to ethnic cleansing campaigns by Serb and Croat forces. The state was caught in a three-sided conflict among Serbs, Croats, and Bosniaks.

4. Bosnian Serbs**Key Leaders:**

- **Radovan Karadžić** – Political leader of Bosnian Serbs.
- **Ratko Mladić** – Military commander of Bosnian Serb forces.

Role:

Proclaimed the Republika Srpska within Bosnia and waged a campaign of ethnic cleansing, supported by Belgrade. Responsible for the Siege of Sarajevo and the Srebrenica massacre.

5. Kosovo Albanians

Key Leader:

- **Hashim Thaçi** – Political leader of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

Role:

Sought independence from Serbia. The KLA launched an armed insurgency in the late 1990s, met with heavy Serbian repression. The humanitarian crisis in Kosovo led to NATO's 1999 intervention.

6. Slovenia

Key Leaders:

- **Milan Kučan** – President of Slovenia (1991–2002).

Role:

First republic to declare independence in 1991. Secured independence after the short Ten-Day War, relatively spared from the larger conflicts that consumed other regions.

7. International Community

United Nations

Role:

The Security Council imposed arms embargoes and economic sanctions, established peacekeeping missions such as UNPROFOR, and created the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in 1993. The UNSC was criticized for indecisiveness and for the limited mandates of peacekeepers, especially in Bosnia.

NATO

Role:

Initially involved in enforcing no-fly zones, NATO escalated to direct military intervention. Conducted Operation Deliberate Force in Bosnia (1995) and Operation Allied Force in Kosovo (1999). NATO's role was controversial, particularly due to its intervention in Kosovo without explicit UNSC authorization.

European Union (then European Community)**Role:**

Early attempts at mediation, such as the Carrington-Cutileiro Plan (1992), were largely unsuccessful. The EU recognized independence of Slovenia and Croatia, but internal divisions weakened its effectiveness.

United States**Key Figures:**

- **Bill Clinton** – U.S. President (1993–2001), oversaw decisive U.S. involvement.
- **Richard Holbrooke** – U.S. diplomat, principal architect of the Dayton Accords.

Role:

Initially cautious but later took a leading role in resolving the Bosnian War. Pushed for NATO action and brokered peace agreements.

Russia**Key Figures:**

- **Boris Yeltsin** – President of Russia (1991–1999).

Role:

Traditionally allied with Serbia due to Slavic and Orthodox ties. Opposed NATO intervention and supported Serbian positions in the UNSC, though constrained by Russia's weakened post-Soviet position.

7.) Timeline of Events

1980s – Prelude to Conflict

1980: Death of Josip Broz Tito, long-time leader of Yugoslavia. His death left a power vacuum in the multi-ethnic federation.

1981: Widespread protests in Kosovo, led by ethnic Albanians demanding greater autonomy.

1986: Publication of the Serbian Academy Memorandum, accusing the Yugoslav system of discriminating against Serbs, fueling nationalist sentiment.

1987: Slobodan Milošević rises to prominence in Serbia, promoting Serbian nationalism and centralization of power.

1989: Milošević revokes the autonomy of Kosovo and Vojvodina, sparking protests and unrest.

1991 – Disintegration Begins

June 25, 1991: Slovenia and Croatia declare independence.

Ten-Day War in Slovenia: The Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) intervenes but retreats; Slovenia secures independence quickly.

Croatian War of Independence begins: Fighting erupts between Croatian forces and Serb militias backed by the JNA.

1992 – Bosnia at War

January 1992: International recognition of Slovenia and Croatia.

March 1992: Bosnia and Herzegovina declares independence after a referendum; Bosnian Serbs, led by Radovan Karadžić, boycotted and opposed it.

April 1992: Bosnian War begins. Siege of Sarajevo by Bosnian Serb forces starts, lasting nearly four years.

May 1992: UNSC imposes sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro.

December 1992: The UN establishes the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Croatia and later Bosnia.

1993–1994 – Escalation and International Deadlock

1993: Establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) by UNSC Resolution 827.

1993: Intensification of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, particularly in eastern regions.

1994: NATO conducts its first-ever air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions in response to attacks on UN “safe areas.”

1994: Temporary ceasefire in Croatia between Serb and Croatian forces (Zagreb Agreement).

1995 – Turning Point

July 1995: Srebrenica massacre – Over 8,000 Bosniak men and boys killed by Bosnian Serb forces under General Ratko Mladić.

August 1995: Operation Storm – Croatian military recaptures Serb-held territories, leading to mass displacement of Serbs.

August–September 1995: NATO launches Operation Deliberate Force, a large-scale air campaign against Bosnian Serb positions.

November 1995: Dayton Accords negotiated by U.S. diplomat Richard Holbrooke in Ohio. Agreement signed by Milošević (Serbia), Tuđman (Croatia), and Izetbegović (Bosnia).

December 1995: Formal end of the Bosnian War. IFOR (Implementation Force) deployed under NATO command to enforce peace.

1996–1998 – Fragile Peace and Rising Tensions in Kosovo

1996: Formation of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), beginning insurgency against Serbian forces.

1997: Growing violence in Kosovo, as the KLA gains support among Albanians.

1998: Serbian forces launch a major crackdown in Kosovo, leading to widespread civilian displacement and international condemnation.

1999 – Kosovo War

March 1999: Peace talks in Rambouillet, France, fail as Serbia refuses terms.

March 24, 1999: NATO begins Operation Allied Force — an air campaign against Serbia, carried out without explicit UNSC authorization.

April–May 1999: Intensification of Serbian campaigns in Kosovo, causing nearly 1 million ethnic Albanians to flee.

June 1999: Agreement reached: Serbian forces withdraw from Kosovo; NATO suspends bombing. The UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) is established under UNSC Resolution 1244.

8.) Key Issues for Debate

I. The Ineffectiveness of Early UN Peacekeeping Missions (UNPROFOR)

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) that was established in 1992, struggled to prevent escalating violence and protect civilians. The limited mandate and lack of coordination led to criticism over the UN's capacity to manage complex internal conflicts.

II. The Siege of Sarajevo and the International Response

The four-year siege of Sarajevo became a symbol of international inaction. Despite constant bombardment and civilian loss, the Security Council's refusal to authorize stronger intervention caused the divisions among the major powers.

III. The Srebrenica Genocide and UN Responsibility

In 1995, the massacre of over 8,000 Bosniak men and boys in the UN-declared 'safe-area' of Srebrenica was one of the worst failures of UN peacekeeping. The UN's shortage of soldiers, the failure to implement the decisions taken and the late NATO intervention caused this massacre.

IV. NATO Airstrikes and Questions of Legitimacy

NATO's bombing campaigns in Bosnia and later in Kosovo raised debates over whether such interventions were justified or exceeded UN authorization. The tension between collective security and unilateral military action remains a major issue of contention.

V. The Dayton Peace Agreement and Its Long-Term Consequences

The 1995 Dayton Accords effectively ended the Bosnian War but left behind a fragile political system. The agreement has been criticized for maintaining ethnic divisions. The country's politics have become overly complicated. Instead of a real agreement, a 'forced peace' was made, which is why nationalist movements still continue.

VI. Ethnic Cleansing and the Role of Nationalist Leaders

The war was fueled up by nationalist propagandas and those propagandas spread by leaders such as Slobodan Milosevic, Franjo Tudman and Radovan Karadzic.

VII. The Establishment of the ICTY and the Search for Justice

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) became the first war crimes court since Nuremberg. Although it's a good example of international justice, debates continue regarding its selectivity, effectiveness and political impact.

9.) Bloc Positions

Western / NATO Bloc

Countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, France and the other NATO members supported international intervention to stop human rights violations. They strongly supported airstrikes against Bosnian Serb forces and played a leading role in the negotiation of the Dayton Peace Agreement. Their main goal was to stabilize the Balkans and prevent further ethnic conflict in Europe.

Russian / Eastern Bloc

Russia and some Eastern European states such as Belarus, opposed NATO intervention by emphasizing respect for national sovereignty and the internal nature of the Yugoslav conflict. Russia, sharing cultural and religious ties with the Serbs, often defended their perspective in the Security Council and criticized Western military actions.

Non-Aligned / Developing Countries Bloc

Countries such as India, Egypt and Indonesia emphasized the importance of diplomacy and peaceful negotiation rather than military involvement. They condemned the ongoing human rights violations but argued that allowing Western powers to intervene militarily in the internal conflict could create the danger of future violations of state sovereignty.

Regional / European Bloc

Neighboring countries like Croatia and Slovenia had direct stakes in the conflict, while EU states supported diplomatic solutions through the European Community and later the EU. Many European states sought to contain the conflict to prevent a wider regional instability.

10.) Guidelines for Delegates

1. Understand the Historical Context

Delegates are expected to have a solid understanding of the political and ethnic tensions that led to the Yugoslav Wars, including key events such as the Siege of Sarajevo, the Srebrenica massacre, and the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement. Knowing the timeline is essential for making informed arguments.

2. Represent Your Country's 1990s Foreign Policy

Since this is a Historical UNSC, delegates must accurately reflect their country's stance *during the early-to-mid 1990s*, not current-day positions. Pay attention to alliances, geopolitical interests, and diplomatic behavior specific to that time period.

3. Prioritize International Peace and Security

As members of the Security Council, delegates should frame their arguments around how the conflict threatens regional stability, civilian protection, and adherence to the UN Charter. Every proposal must be realistic within the Council's mandate.

4. Be Prepared to Address Humanitarian Concerns

Delegates should be ready to discuss issues such as ethnic cleansing, refugee flows, violations of international humanitarian law, and the failures of UNPROFOR. Human rights considerations are central to the debate.

5. Balance Sovereignty and Intervention

A major theme of the committee will be the tension between state sovereignty and humanitarian intervention. Delegates should understand when and how intervention may be justified—or opposed—according to their country's perspective.

6. Use Evidence from Past Events

Arguments should reference real incidents from the conflict, such as NATO airstrikes, the fall of Srebrenica, or the ethnic divisions institutionalized by the Dayton Agreement. Historical accuracy and sourced reasoning strengthen credibility.

7. Prepare Practical and Actionable Solutions

Even though the committee is historical, delegates are expected to propose actionable measures: peacekeeping reforms, ceasefire monitoring, sanctions, humanitarian corridors, arms embargoes, and diplomatic frameworks.

8. Engage diplomatically

Delegates should work collaboratively, negotiate with opposing blocs, and seek compromises consistent with their national policies. Creative diplomacy is encouraged, but historical realism must be preserved.

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